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## *Reintegration facility contributes to Iraq security*

By Kendal Smith  
 Gulf Region Central District

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – “The Theater Internment Facility Reconciliation Center in Taji has been constructed to integrate detention with reintegration programs. The overall goal of the TIFRC is to reintegrate detainees with basic education and trade skills such that they can contribute to a peaceful and secure Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Ronald Pieri, Task Force 134 Engineer.

TF 134 is the organization in charge of detainee operations in Iraq. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers \$77.3 million project to build the TIFRC is 67 percent finished with a completion date of Nov. 30, 2008.

The facility has two distinct parts, explained Michael Vantzelfden, Central district, Gulf Region Division project manager. On one side of the facility, detainees are housed in a secure environment in 13 dormitory-style buildings. Each 19,600 square foot dormitory has a K-span overhead cover for weather protection. On the other side, they are educated and trained; “reconciled” for reintegration into Iraqi society. Arabic, English, math and other basic courses are taught in eleven classrooms of varying sizes built to accommodate the resident population of the facility.

Importantly, detainees are also taught vocational skills for reintegration into Iraqi society and future employment. Three vocational-technical facilities are the largest structures at the facility. One textile manufacturing mill and a brick factory



Taji workers prepare the USACE-project brick factory buildings and drying kilns for use in vocational education of Theater Internment Facility and Reconciliation Center detainees. [USACE Photo]

with a production capacity of 12 million bricks per year highlight the training opportunities.

Support facilities include a 20,000 square foot medical facility for use by everyone at the Center. The Coalition forces also have a warehouse and support facilities.

Two operational centers are under construction for Local National housing of instructors and other LN workers employed at the TIFRC brick factory, textile mill, etc. There will be several adjunct buildings and units for the Center: one Coalition Forces Dining Facility, one detainee dining facility, laundry facilities, a water treatment



Security lights are prepared for placement in the Modular Detainee Housing Unit area. [USACE Photo]

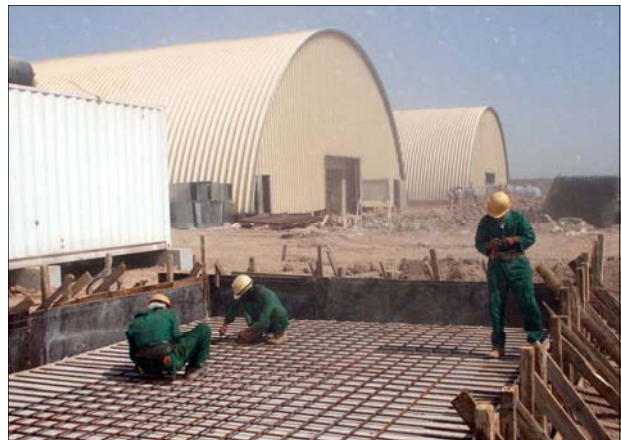
plant capable of producing 360,000 gallons per day, water storage and a waste water treatment plant designed for 400,000 gpd. Other Center infrastructure includes power generation plants, air conditioning for all spaces and approximately three miles of roadway.

Besides education and training, there are judges' chambers and parole areas with a family visitation center incorporating a family embracing area to assist with the reconciliation and reintegration efforts.

A \$4 million third division of the TIFRC project is a temporary housing unit or Modular Detainee Housing Unit with more than 20,000 square feet of living space, ablution facilities, a medical facility and a compound control trailer.

Maximum capacity of the Taji TIFRC is 5,000 detainees and 2,000 Coalition forces.

"To rebuild people means contributing a very critical part of rebuilding the country. That is exactly what the TIFRC is designed and constructed to do. It plays an essential role in the reconciliation of useful citizens for a stronger Iraq," summed up Lt. Cmdr. Paul Chan, officer in charge of the Central District's Taji Resident Office, who is overseeing the construction.



Rebar preparation by TIFRC workers prepares the foundation for concrete placement at the Visitors' Center of the Theater Internment Facility and Reconciliation Center. [USACE Photo]

Note: Kendal Smith is a public affairs officer with the Gulf Region Central district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact Kendal at 540-665-2644 or email requests to [Leslie.K.Smith@usace.army.mil](mailto:Leslie.K.Smith@usace.army.mil). For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).